

Medicine: semaglutide (brand name: Ozempic®) for type 2 diabetes mellitus

Novo Nordisk Ltd

What is semaglutide used for?

Semaglutide is used to treat type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), which is a condition in which there is too much glucose (sugar) present in the blood. T2DM develops when the body either does not make enough insulin (a hormone which helps glucose to be used by the body) or when the insulin that is produced does not work properly.

Semaglutide must be used together with a diet and exercise program. It can be used either on its own (if the patient is unable to take another medicine for T2DM called metformin) or with other medicines used to treat T2DM.

How does semaglutide work?

Semaglutide is a type of medicine called a GLP-1 receptor agonist. It acts in the same way as a hormone produced in the gut, to increase the amount of insulin that the pancreas releases in response to food. This helps to control blood glucose levels.

What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted semaglutide for restricted use for the treatment of adults with T2DM as described above. This acceptance is limited to using semaglutide in addition to other oral medicines for diabetes, or as an add-on to insulin.



Why has SMC said this?

SMC looks at how well new medicines work compared with current treatments available in Scotland and in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer (for example, if the medicine has to be given at a clinic or side effects have to be monitored).

SMC carefully considers every new medicine to make sure it benefits patients and is considered to be an acceptable use of the limited resources in NHSScotland. When SMC assesses a medicine it takes account of the needs of all patients in NHSScotland, not just those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

To do this SMC consider the following:

- Clinical trial and economic evidence from the company that makes the medicine.
- Advice from healthcare professionals about any benefits of the new medicine compared to current treatment, along with how the new medicine is likely to be used.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.

After careful consideration of the evidence, SMC was able to accept semaglutide as a possible treatment within NHSScotland.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

If your healthcare professional thinks that semaglutide for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland. For further information see:

Medicines in Scotland: What's the right treatment for me?

www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx



More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with diabetes. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Diabetes Scotland



https://www.diabetes.org.uk/in_your_area/scotland



0141 212 8710

You can find out more about semaglutide in the European public assessment report (EPAR) summary for the public by searching for the medicine name on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website.



<http://www.ema.europa.eu>

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